

onto the Mall: the committee's own power walker, "Flash Botuck".

To Joan, our heartfelt congratulations on a job well done and a career truly superbly undertaken! I join with her many friends in extending our thanks for the energy, diligence, and good humor you brought to your work. We will miss you greatly.

SALUTE TO THOMAS E. GOODWIN,
GOSHEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, this week Congress and the nation pause to honor the more than one half million law enforcement officers across the country who put their lives on the line each day to protect us and our families. These dedicated men and women are prepared to give what Abraham Lincoln called "their last full measure of devotion" so we can continue to enjoy the freedom and quality of life we sometimes take for granted.

Federal, state, and local police officers perform a great service for our communities. All too often they literally are the last thread between us and the forces of violence and chaos. We ask a great deal of the officers who protect us. We ask them to defend our homes and families; to patrol our roads and highways; and to bring justice to criminals and murderers who would otherwise prey on our society. We ask a great deal from this "blue line," but it never breaks and is always there to guard us. For this we owe the nation's police officers our deepest gratitude and our strong support.

One officer from the congressional district I represent, Thomas E. Goodwin from the Goshen Police Department, made the ultimate sacrifice last year while defending his community. The sadness and grief brought on by Officer's Goodwin's senseless death is a grim reminder that our law enforcement officers put their lives on the line every day. I join his family and Goshen in honoring his dedication and service to the Maple City. Just last week, Goshen dedicated a public park in Goodwin's honor, a strong reflection of how the community came together with a sense of caring after this tragedy.

This week we pay tribute not only to those who gave their lives, but also to every family—to every spouse, every child, every parent, and every friend. We pay tribute not only to those who died, but to those who have lost them, to the survivors. And we pay tribute to the law enforcement officers who continue to go to work each day, putting their lives on the line, in the name of freedom.

As we honor these heroes with ceremonies and flags standing at half-staff, we should rededicate ourselves to ending the violence that has taken such a toll on these peace officers. We can best honor their service by seeing that today's officers have the training, equipment and public support they need to accomplish their dangerous mission. to quote Lincoln again, our greatest tribute to these fallen officers is to see that they "shall not have died in vain."

IN HONOR OF JOHN HAMILTON, FINANCIAL SERVICES ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR, VICE PRESIDENT, BAY STATE SAVINGS BANK

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Mr. John Hamilton, Vice President of the Bay State Savings Bank in my hometown of Worcester, MA. On May 20, 1999, he will be honored by the Small Business Administration as the Financial Services Advocate of the Year.

As a leader, Mr. Hamilton plays a significant role in the bank's strategic planning by supervising commercial, residential and consumer lending. He personifies the "ideal" small business advocate, combining extraordinary technical and underwriting skills with a high level of creative thinking in accessing funding programs. This results in successful small business lending, particularly to the minority-owned businesses in the Worcester Community and the Central Massachusetts Region.

His multi-million dollar portfolio of loans to small businesses reflects his efforts and advocacy on behalf of small business throughout many of the communities which I represent. Mr. Hamilton is active in Centro Las Americas, Worcester's leading Latino Community Based organization, the Worcester Minority Business Council, the Worcester Banking Council Loan Committee, and the Worcester Chamber of Commerce.

Thus Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Hamilton and his efforts to lend a helping hand and for his contributions to the economic well-being of the community.

RECOGNITION OF ANTELOPE VALLEY HOSPITAL FOR THEIR AHA AWARD

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Hospital Week. It is a time when communities across the country celebrate the people that make hospitals the special places they are. The theme for this year's commemoration sums it up nicely: "People Care. Miracles Happen." It recognizes the health care workers, volunteers and other health professionals who are there 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, curing and caring, for their neighbors who need them.

An example of this dedication is the Sexual Assault Response Service of Antelope Valley Hospital in Lancaster, CA—which is in my district. This wonderful program won the American Hospital Association's prestigious Hospital Award for Volunteer Excellence, which highlights special contributions of hospital volunteers.

The Sexual Assault Response Service is a team of hospital volunteers that frees up hospital staff for other duties by offering specialized assistance to sexual assault victims, families, hospital personnel and law enforcement agencies. To meet the program's high stand-

ards, volunteers get more than 60 hours of training.

Responding to a call from any area hospital emergency department, they provide support to victims while helping solicit histories, preparing evidence collection kits, assisting with medical and legal examinations, and overseeing the completion of state forms. Volunteers work with the district attorney's office throughout the court process and offer one-on-one counseling, a referral service, a lending library and community education.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Antelope Valley for this outstanding program and congratulate them for this prestigious award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ASA HUTCHINSON

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 115, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present I would have voted "aye." I request that this explanation appear immediately following the vote on rollcall No. 115.

LEGISLATION INTRODUCED TO DESIGNATE WILSON CREEK AS A WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation, that when enacted, would designate Wilson Creek, in my district, as a Wild and Scenic River.

Wilson Creek is a free flowing creek which passes through some of the most beautiful scenery in the nation. It is home to a multitude of fish species, plant life and serves as a habitat for thousands of animals which live along its banks. From its headwaters below Calloway Peak on Grandfather Mountain in Avery County, North Carolina to where it empties into Johns Creek in Caldwell County, Wilson Creek meets or exceeds all the requirements for such an important designation.

Specifically, my bill would designate 23.3 miles of Wilson Creek as a Wild and Scenic River. In my opinion, having Wilson Creek designated as Wild and Scenic would help maintain the natural beauty of the creek while helping to improve the quality of recreational opportunities, like hunting, fishing, camping, canoeing and other activities for the thousands of people who would visit each year.

The potential designation of Wilson Creek as a Wild and Scenic River has received tremendous support from the County Commissioners from Avery and Caldwell County as well as local residents. In fact, when I met with the county commissioners of Caldwell County last month, I was presented with letters of support from local residents, positive newspaper articles and editorials, and a letter from the U.S. Forest Service which indicated a willingness to help us in this effort. I am convinced that the designation of Wilson Creek is well supported within the communities which surround it.

I believe that this is an excellent bill that would do much to preserve Wilson Creek,